

Cockermouth

Urban District Council.

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*Annual Report*

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health,

Charles A. Mason, M. B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

---

**FOR THE YEAR 1940.**

---

Together with the Summary of work of  
the Sanitary Inspector.



Cockermouth  
Urban District Council.

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## Cockermouth Urban District Council

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To the Chairman and Members of the  
Cockermouth Urban District Council.

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Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my Annual Report for 1940, which has been drawn up in accordance with Circular 1961 of the Ministry of Health, dated 16th February, 1940, and the Registrar General's Memorandum SD/54 received July, 1941. Under instructions, considerable curtailment has again been effected.

There has been no lessening in the amount of extra work involved as a result of measures relating to the war and no slackening in the effort to cope with it. members and officials of the Council and other workers have continued to take infinite pains to overcome each difficulty as it has arisen.

I am,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

**CHARLES A. MASON,**

Medical Officer of Health.

## GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (acres), 2,062.

Registrar-General's estimate of resident population (mid 1940)  
(see page 5) 5,455

Number of inhabited houses (end 1940) according to Rate  
Books, 1,573

Ratable Value ... .. £24,013

Sum represented by Penny Rate (approx.) £93.

### EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

		Total	M.	F.	
Live Births	Legitimate	69	33	36	} Birth Rate (R.G.) 13.3
	Illegitimate	4	2	2	

Still Births ... .. 0      0      0      Rate per 1,000

Total (live and still) births Nil

		Total	M	F.	
Deaths	...	68	25	43	Crude Death Rate (R.G.) 12.4 per 1,000 of estimated resident population

(Using Areal factor given by R.G., the Adjusted D.R.  
was 12.0).

#### Maternal Mortality:—

Deaths from puerperal causes (childbirth):—

	Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births.
Puerperal Sepsis	Nil	Nil
Other Puerperal causes	Nil	Nil
Total	Nil	Nil

(Maternal Mortality rate—all causes —  
England and Wales      2.16

#### Infantile Mortality:—

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age 2

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age:—

All Infants per 1,000 live births	27.3
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	28.9
Illegitimate      „      illegitimate      „	Nil

Deaths from Measles (all ages) 0

Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) 0

Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) 0

Deaths from Cancer (all ages) 5

# Cockermouth Urban District.

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## ANNUAL REPORT.

OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,  
for the year 1940.

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The area of the district in statute acres (land and inland water) is 2,062.

### RAINFALL.

Records, taken at Cockermouth Castle, 1940 —

January	...	1.36	inches of rain fell on	5 days
February	...	.70	" "	8 "
March	...	4.40	" "	15 "
April	...	1.65	" "	16 "
May	...	1.68	" "	8 "
June	...	.83	" "	3 "
July	...	5.24	" "	17 "
August	...	2.20	" "	13 "
September	...	4.56	" "	11 "
October	...	3.24	" "	8 "
November	...	3.52	" "	11 "
December	...	3.66	" "	16 "
Total		33.04	" "	131 "

The average for ten years (1931—1940) was 35.77.

### POPULATION.

**Population exposed to risk.**—(Figures provided by the Registrar General)—

**For Birth Rates:** The estimated resident population including non-civilians as at the middle of the year was 5,455 (the figure for 1939 was 4,807).

**For General Death Rates and Incidence of Notifiable Disease:** A population estimate constructed so as to allow for the exclusion of non-civilians and for the different areal assignment of deaths was given also as 5,455.

**For Infant and Maternal Mortality Rates:** Special figures are given—shown under Live Births on page 7—on which the calculations are based.

## PUBLIC ASSISTANCE.

In the Cockermouth Urban District, which is included in the Mid-Cumberland Guardians' Area, the number of persons in receipt of out-door relief was 152, giving a proportion of (approximately) 1 in 36 of the population, as compared with 1 in 26 for 1939, 1 in 23 for 1938, 1 in 23 for 1937, and 1 in 22 for 1936.

2 persons were admitted to Public Assistance Hospital from this district during the year, giving a proportion of 1 in 2,728 of the population.

The numbers for 1940 are detailed as follows:—

	Out-door Ordinary	Relief Unemployed	Total	Indoor Relief
Cockermouth U.D.	97	55	152	2
(1939)	119	75	194	4)

## Vital Statistics.

## BIRTHS.

Live Births.—There were 73 Live Births (35 males and 38 females) registered as belonging to the district; of these 4 (2 males and 2 females) were illegitimate.

The net live birth rate was accordingly 13.3 per 1000 of the population, compared with 16.4 for the previous year.

Comparisons may be given as follows:—

Birth Rates, 1940—Cumberland	...	15.6
Rural Districts of Cumberland	...	15.1
Urban Districts of Cumberland	...	16.4
England and Wales	...	14.6
Cockermouth Rural District	...	14.3
Cockermouth Urban District		13.3

The percentage of illegitimate live births was 5.4 as compared with 10.1 in 1939.

Still Births.—There were no still births registered so that the still birth rate per 1000 of the population was nil, as compared with 0.41 for 1939. (The rate for all England and Wales was 0.55).

The still birth rate per 1000 total live and still births was therefore, also, nil, as compared with 24.6 for 1939.

## DEATHS.

The number of deaths registered as belonging to Cockermouth was 68. This gives a crude death rate of 12.4 per 1000 of the population as compared with 15.4 for the previous year.

The adjusting or Area Comparability Factor, was .97. The adjusted death rate for Cockermouth was therefore 12.0 as compared with 12.9 for 1939.



## CAUSES OF DEATH IN 1940

Causes of Death.				Males	Females
All Causes				25	43
1.	Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fever .....				
2.	Cerebro-Spinal Fever .....				
3.	Scarlet Fever .....				
4.	Whooping-cough .....				
5.	Diphtheria .....				
6.	Tuberculosis of Respiratory System .....				3
7.	Other forms of Tuberculosis .....				
8.	Syphilitic diseases .....				
9.	Influenza .....				
10.	Measles. ....				
11.	Ac: Polio-myelitis and Polio-encephalitis .....				
12.	Ac: inf: encephalitis .....				
13.	Cancer of b: cav: and oesoph: (M.) Uterus (F.) .....				1
14.	„ stomach and duodenum .....				
15.	„ breast .....				1
16.	„ all other sites .....		1		2
17.	Diabetes .....				
18.	Intra-cran. vasc: lesions .....		4		7
19.	Heart Dis: .....		8		10
20.	Other Dis: of circulatory system .....		1		2
21.	Bronchitis .....				1
22.	Pneumonia (all forms) .....		1		6
23.	Other Respiratory Diseases .....				1
24.	Ulcer of stomach or duodenum .....		2		1
25.	Diarrhoea under 2 years .....				
26.	Appendicitis .....				
27.	Other Digestive Diseases .....		1		1
28.	Nephritis .....				1
29.	Puerperal and post-abortion: sepsis .....				
30.	Other Maternal Causes .....				
31.	Premature Birth .....				
32.	Congen: malform: birth inj: infant dis. ....		2		
33.	Suicide .....		2		
34.	Road Traffic acc: .....		1		1
35.	Other violent causes .....				1
36.	All other causes .....		2		4
Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age—Total ...				2	—
Legitimate ...				2	—
Illegitimate ...				—	—
				For	For
				I. M. etc.	B. Rate
				M F	M F
LIVE BIRTHS	Total	...	...	35	38
	Legitimate	...	...	33	36
	Illegitimate	...	...	2	2
STILL BIRTHS	Total	...	...	—	—
	Legitimate	...	...	—	—
	Illegitimate	...	...	—	—

POPULATION (for Births and Deaths), 1940—R.G.—(see p 5)

(a) for B.R.	...	...	}	5,455
(b) for D.R.'s and incidence of notifiable diseases	...	...		

Comparisons of crude and adjusted death rates are shewn below :—

	Crude	Adjusted
Death Rates, 1940—Cumberland ...	15.2	14.8
Rural Districts of Cumberland	14.7	13.9
Urban Districts of Cumberland	16.0	16.3
England and Wales ...	14.3	—
Cockermouth Rural District	12.4	12.4
Cockermouth Urban District	12.1	12.0

( For causes of death during the year see table on page 7.)

### INFANTILE MORTALITY.

There were 2 deaths (both legitimate) among infants under one year of age, giving an Infantile Mortality Rate of 27.3 per 1000 births as compared with 61.7 for 1939.

No death occurred among illegitimate infants, so that the Illegitimate Infantile Mortality Rate for 1940 was nil per 1000 illegitimate births, as compared with the Legitimate Infantile Mortality Rate of 28.9 per 1000 legitimate births. These latter rates were respectively nil and 68.4 for the previous year.

Comparisons may be given as follows :—

Infantile Mortality Rates, 1940—

Cumberland	...	73
Rural Districts of Cumberland	...	71
Urban Districts of Cumberland	...	75
England and Wales	...	55
Cockermouth Rural District	...	71.6
Cockermouth Urban District		27.3

Net Deaths from stated causes at various ages under one year of age :—

Cause of Death	under 1 wk.	2—3 weeks	Total under 4 wks	1—3 mths.	3—6 mths.	6—9 mths.	9—12 mths.	Total under 1 yr.
Congenital Heart Disease						1		1
Congenital Malformation	1		1					1
								2

### SENILE DEATH RATE.

41 persons had attained the age of 65 years or upwards. This number represents a Senile death rate of 60.2 per cent. of the total deaths, as compared with 58.4 for 1939.

7 ( 1m 6f)	persons died between the ages of	65 and 70 years
15 ( 7m 8f)	„ „ „	70 and 75 years
10 ( 3m 7f)	„ „ „	75 and 80 years
5 ( 2m 3f)	„ „ „	80 and 85 years
3 ( f)	„ „ „	85 and 90 years
1 (f)	died at 90 years of age	

## INQUESTS, UNCERTIFIED DEATHS AND VIOLENCE.

In respect of deaths belonging to the district during the year there were 5 inquests (held within the district). Inquests were also held within the district in respect of 2 non-residents.

No Coroner's certificate was received in respect of a case where post-mortem examination had been made but no inquest held.

One death was uncertified.

Violence.—With reference to the Violence (All Forms) death rate of 0.91 for Cockermouth Urban District, I give below a table showing the number of deaths from Suicide, Road Traffic Accident, Other Violence and the Total Violence deaths, together with the percentages of the total deaths from all causes, and the death rates of each per 1000 of the population:—

	Suicide		Road Traffic Accidents		Other Violence excl'g Road Traffic Acc.		Total Violence	
	1940	1939	1940	1939	1940	1939	1940	1939
Deaths	2	nil	2	1	1	nil	5	1
% of all causes	2.94	nil	2.94	1.29	1.47	nil	7.35	1.29
D.R. per 1000 popln.	.36	nil	.36	.20	.18	nil	.91	.20

The deaths from Violence in 1940 include 1 from accidental burns, 2 suicide (1 drowning, 1 coal-gas poisoning) and 2 road accidents.

## CANCER.

Cancer proved fatal in 5 cases, as follows:—

System	Primary Organ	Males	Females	Years
Alimentary	Bowel		1	75
Reproductive	Uterus		1	74
Glandular	Breast		1	48
Hepatic	Liver		1	48
Respiratory	Bronchus	1	—	59
		1	4	

This number corresponds to a cancer death rate of 0.91 per 1000 of the population as compared with 1.60 in 1939.

Approximately out of every 14 deaths of persons in this district 1 was due to cancer. (1939—1 in 10).

## TUBERCULOSIS.

Vide also pages 16 and 17.

There were 3 deaths due to Tuberculosis:—

	Males.	Female.
Respiratory System	0	3
Non-Pulmonary	0	0

Two were of previously notified cases in this district.

The total gives a tuberculosis (all forms) death rate of .54 per 1000 of the population, as compared with .40 for 1939.

The "Consumption" (i.e. Pulmonary Tuberculosis) Death rate is 0.54 per 1000 of the population also, as compared with last year's figure of 0.40.

.....

## General Provision of Health Services in the Area.

### PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

Part-time Medical Officer of Health.

Sanitary Inspector, Mr. Wm. Nicholls, M.I.M. and C.E., A.R. San. I., who is also the Surveyor and Water Engineer.

Mr. Geo. Dawes is Clerk in the Surveyor's office, and assists in the duties of the department.

### LABORATORY WORK.

The following table shows the amount of work done in connection with investigations of certain cases of illness during the year, 1940:—

Material	Test applied for—	Result :	
		Pos.	Neg.
Throat or nose swabs ...	Diphtheria	5	10
... ..	Haemolytic Streptococci	2	2
Sputum ...	Tuberculosis	1	10
Blood ...	Widal for Typhoid		
	Para-typhoid	0	1

.....  
Other particulars under Provision of Health Services remain as detailed in my 1930 and subsequent reports.

## Sanitary Circumstances of the District.

### WATER SUPPLY.

The amount of Crummock Water used by Cockermouth Urban District during the year under review was approximately 106 million gallons.

The consumption of water per head of the population using the water was approximately 49 gallons a day.

The Surveyor, Mr. Nicholls, considers that the increased amount of water used was chiefly due to the severe winter with burst mains and service pipes, and of course, there has been an increase in population.

**EXTENSION OF MAIN.**—90 yards of new water main (3 inch) were laid in Henry Street to connect the Moor Housing Estate to the low pressure main (reservoir supply) to counter-balance the 100 new houses on the Windmill Lane Housing Estate which are supplied by the high pressure main.

The reservoir on the Moor was cleaned out twice in August and again in September and November: the reason for extra cleaning was due to the scraping of the 15in. Crummock main. The Secondary School reservoir was cleaned out in November. During the year 1,200 yards of mains were scraped.

## DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

The sewage effluent from the Outfall Works remained satisfactory. Several market gardeners continued to cart away the dried sludge for their own use free of cost.

SEWER EXTENSIONS.—Nil during 1940.

## SCAVENGING AND REMOVAL OF REFUSE.

The method of scavenging and removal of refuse proceeds as formerly; collection is bi-weekly.

In the Goat area night soil is still removed by the Council from a few houses (all but one condemned).

Salvage of waste paper has been carried out from April and by the end of the year 33 tons had been baled and despatched to Paper Mills. This collection resulted in an improvement at the refuse tip through there being very little loose paper to be blown about the vicinity. Controlled tipping is still the method employed at the refuse tip.

## SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT.

The Sanitary Inspection of the district was undertaken by Mr. W. Nicholls, Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor to the Council. There was willing and harmonious co-operation at all times and I here record my indebtedness to him for his assistance in the making of this report at the end of which will be found his Summary of Work done—in accordance with Article 19 of the Sanitary Officers' Order, 1926.

## SCHOOLS.

The trough closets at Fairfield Infants', Girls' and Boys' Schools were removed and replaced by modern wash-down pedestal closets, an improvement which I had been endeavouring to get for some years.

## FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

The following table shows the position in Cockermouth Urban District at the end of 1940 and it will be seen that 68 premises were registered (included in which were 14 bakehouses) and no serious defects noted by the Sanitary Inspector who made 33 visits in all:—

Premises.	Number	Inspections.	Defects Found	Written Notices.	Defects Remedied	Prosecutions
Factories with mechanical power	15	13	0	0	0	—
Factories without do	53	25	1	0	1	—
Other Premises under Act						
Totals	68	33	1	0	1	—



**OFFENSIVE TRADES.**—The firm of Blood Driers whose licence expired on 1st May, 1940, applied to the Council for a renewal and this was granted for another twelve months.

There is still the Knacker and Fellmonger establishment in Waste Lane and frequent visits of inspection continue to be made to it.

#### SHOPS ACT, 1934.

No special action under the provision of the Shops Act, 1934, was taken.

#### RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION ACT, 1919.

The Sanitary Inspector co-operates with officials of the County Council. Poison is available at the Health Department Offices at the Town Hall free of charge. The refuse tip continues to be periodically baited with rat poison.

It is still worth while urging occupiers of all premises infested with rats or mice to take advantage of the facilities offered for the extermination of this vermin. In some instances nothing short of determined action to the extent of thoroughly ratproofing such premises will be of any avail.

Rat poison continued to be in steady demand.

### Housing.

Since my last year's report the second group of 50 Council houses have been completed on the Windmill Lane Housing Estate and occupied by persons from condemned or overcrowded houses. Owing to the war the reconstruction schemes in Derwent Street referred to in my 1939 report have been left in abeyance.

Two condemned houses were allowed to become temporarily occupied by agricultural workers under the Defence (General) Regulations, 1939.

No new houses were built in Cockermouth in 1940 by private enterprise.

No houses were reconditioned under the Housing (Rural Workers) Act, 1926.

### Housing Appendix.

in accordance with Circular 1961 Ministry of Health, 16th Feb., 1940

#### STATISTICS.

##### 1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year:—

(1) (a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts .....	102
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	209
(2) (a)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932 .....	0

(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	0
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation .....	52
(the same houses as in 1939)	
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation .....	30
2. Remedy of Defects during the year without service of formal Notices:—	
Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	6
3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year:—	
(a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10, and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936—	0
(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:	10
(c) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:—	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made .....	0
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders .....	0
(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936—	0
4. Housing Act, 1936, Part iv., —Overcrowding:— figures not available	
Owing to war conditions the tendency is for overcrowding to increase in this area.	

## FOOD.

### MILK SUPPLY.

There were 8 registered milksellers whose premises were within the Urban District, including 4 producers and retailers, 2 producer wholesalers, and 2 retail purveyors only. Inspections are made periodically and endeavour is made to get improvements carried out to dairy premises where necessary.

A large quantity of the town's milk supply is retailed by producers and retailers whose premises are situated in the surrounding Rural District. There were again 10 of such producers and retailers during 1940.

The following table gives the result of 27 samples of milk retailed in the town and taken by the Sanitary Inspector, and submitted for bacteriological examination to the Cumberland Pathological Laboratory, Carlisle.

Of the above 27 samples, 13 were satisfactory and 14 unsatisfactory in relation to dirt contamination, as follows:—

	Satisfactory according to Accredited Standard.	Unsatisfactory according to Accredited Standard.	Total
Samples produced in Urban District	4	8	12
„ „ outside „	9	6	15
	<u>13</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>27</u>

The 14 unsatisfactory samples comprised :—

- 7 failing the Methyline Blue Reduction test only (4 being borderline cases);
- 1 failing B. Coli test only (i.e. showing B. Coli in 2 or 3 tubes out of 3, and
- 6 failing Combined tests.

Two samples were found to contain tubercle bacilli in milk from the Rural District and the matter was dealt with by the appropriate authority.

Where results are unsatisfactory as to cleanliness endeavour is made to secure improvement. On a sample of milk being reported as tubercular, investigation is made by officials of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. I am kindly informed by Mr. John Cameron, Divisional Inspector of that Authority, that in so far as the Urban District of Cockermouth was concerned, no cows were slaughtered under the Tuberculosis Order, 1925, during the year under review.

This Council has continued to co-operate with the County Council in the latter's scheme for general milk sampling, including Designated, School, and Ungraded Milk.

The production and retailing of milk under "Special Designation" in the Cockermouth Urban District in 1940 was as follows :—

Tuberculin Tested.—John Cook, Fitz Road—Retailer.  
Cockermouth Dairy Co., Ltd.—Retailer

Accredited.—J. Simpson, Dovenby Craggs—Retailer.  
Isaac Cook, Strawberry Howe—Producer.  
Wm. Cook, Annfield—Producer and Retailer.  
J. Wright, Croft House, Brigham—Producer and Retailer.  
J. Christopherson, Sneckyeat—Producer and Retailer.

## MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

Slaughter-Houses.—The 2 Private Slaughter-Houses (both registered), and the Council's Public Abattoir have not been used as such since the Ministry of Food on January 14th, 1940, suspended all slaughtering other than in regional abattoirs—the Maryport abattoir serves this district under the scheme.





From notifications received it is deduced that one in every 455 persons in this district contracted a disease notifiable under the Infectious Diseases Notification Act and the Tuberculosis Regulations (Measles, Whooping Cough, and Chickenpox excluded). Last year's figures: 1 in 415.

Four cases of Scarlet Fever were notified, three being removed to Ellerbeck Infectious Diseases Hospital, Workington, with complete recovery. The case rate per 1000 of the population was therefore, .54, and the death rate nil as compared with 1.6 and nil in 1939. The corresponding rates for all England and Wales (1940) were 1.63 and .00

Five cases of Diphtheria (including one nasal) were notified and removed to hospital; all but one were of mild type. The case and death rates per 1000 of the population were respectively, .91 and nil. The corresponding rates for all England and Wales (1940) were 1.16 and .06.

(At the time of writing, it may be stated, an immunisation scheme has been carried out, figures, etc., of which will be given in my next annual report).

There were, again, no notifications of Typhoid (including Para-typhoid) Fever, Cerebro-spinal Meningitis, Acute Poliomyelitis, Encephalitis Lethargica, or Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

**Puerperal Pyrexia.**—No notification received. The case rate for Puerperal Pyrexia (including Puerperal Fever) is better expressed in relation to the number of births registered than to the population. When calculated on this basis the rate is:—Puerperal Pyrexia nil per 1000 total births (i.e. live and still births), as compared with 12.3 (one case) in 1939. The corresponding rate (1940) for England and Wales was 11.96.

There were again no Maternal deaths—corresponding, therefore, to a Maternal Mortality Rate of nil per 1000 total (live and still) births—the same as in the five previous years. The rate (1940) for England and Wales was 2.16 (all causes).

**Pneumonia.**—Although no notifications were received it may be mentioned that 7 deaths from Pneumonia (all forms) were registered.

**Tuberculosis.**—Under the Tuberculosis Regulations 2 cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis (one male and one female) but nil of other forms of Tuberculosis were notified.

One case (female)—notified during the year—was admitted to Sanatorium. One (pulmonary female) case notified previous to 1940, was re-admitted to Sanatorium.

The following table gives the number of New Cases and Mortality (all cases) during 1940:—

Age		New Cases				Deaths			
		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
		M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1 year	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—5	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—10	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10—15	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—20	...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20—25	...	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
25—35	...	—	1	—	—	—	1	...	—
35—45	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45—55	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55—65	...	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
65—and upwards	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	...	1	1	0	0	0	3	0	0

A statement regarding the total deaths from Tuberculosis will be found on page 9.

The number of cases on the Tuberculosis Register at the end of 1940 was as follows:—

		Males	Females	Total
Pulmonary	...	3	9	12
Non-pulmonary	...	—	2	2
		—	—	—
	All cases	3	11	14

Non-Notifiable Acute Infectious Diseases.—Epidemics usually occur in conjunction with epidemics in the districts adjoining.

Influenza was prevalent near the beginning and towards the end of the year. No deaths occurred, corresponding therefore, to an Influenza death-rate of nil per 1000 of the population as compared with .40 (2 deaths) in 1939. The rate (1940) for all England and Wales was .32.

Under Special Regulations of the Ministry of Health, Measles and Whooping Cough were added to the list of notifiable diseases as from 1st November, 1939. The first-named was beginning to be prevalent near the middle of December of that year and during the first four months of 1940 it assumed epidemic proportions, and eventually there were 103 notified cases in all. No death occurred from either disease. The case rates and death rates were, per 1000 of the population;—Measles 18.8 and nil, and Whooping Cough nil and nil (England and Wales—Measles 10.24 and 0.02, and Whooping Cough 1.34 and 0.02).

SCHOOL CLOSURES.—During 1940 three of the public elementary schools in Cockermouth were closed for varying periods:—All Saints on account of Measles and Influenza; Fairfield Infants for Measles; and St. Joseph's R.C. for Influenza and German Measles.

Summary supplied by the Sanitary Inspector to the Medical  
Officer of Health, in pursuance of Article xix. of the  
Sanitary Officers' Order, 1926.

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NUISANCES:

Nuisances reported to Council	..	Nil
Notices served after inspection	...	15
Notices complied with	...	15

Detailed Sanitary Work:

Choked drains, defective I.C.'s and gullies		6
Damp and defective roof, etc.	...	2
Additional W.C.'s	...	3
New Bathrooms	... ..	1
Housing Inspections	...	140
Factories Inspections	...	30
Dairies and Cowsheds Inspections	...	8
Visits to Knackery	... ..	9
Visits re Infectious Diseases (including Disinfections)	... ..	16

Plans were approved during 1940 for the following:—

Rear Porch at 3, Viearage Lane for Mr. D. Cook.  
Petrol Tank for Electricity House, Ltd.  
Garage at Lane Head for Rev. A. Ainley.  
Bathroom at The Goat for Mr. D. Harkness.  
Fire Escape and W.C.'s at Fairfield Schools.  
Additional W.C. at 21, Castlegate Drive for Mrs. Hill.  
Additions to Cocker Brows for Dr. C. A. Mason.  
Detached House at Fitz Road for Messrs. T. Armstrong, Ltd.  
Washhouse and W.C. at Crown Street for Mr. J. Hawkrigg.

WM. NICHOLLS,  
M.I.M. and C.E., A.R. San. I.,  
Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector.







